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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,487	09/21/2004	Khamir Girish Joshi	030742KEL111	5486
32583 7590 01/08/2007 KELLOGG BROWN & ROOT LLC ATTN: IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT 601 JEFFERSON AVENUE HOUSTON, TX 77002			EXAMINER SINGH, SUNIL	
			ART UNIT 3673	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/08/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/711,487

Applicant(s)

JOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Sunil Singh

Art Unit

3673

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 21 December 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☒ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16-34, 50-62, 64 and 65.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

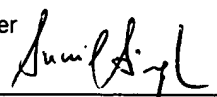
AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

Sunil Singh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3673



- Continuation of 3. NOTE: Claims 50 and 51 have been amended to include "flexible" and "freely suspended" which raise new issues and would require further consideration and/or search. Applicant's argument with respect to claims 50 and 51 are far more limiting than the finally rejected claims 50,51..

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's argument with regards to claims 1 and 58 are not found persuasive. With regards to Harrison, applicant argues a single buoy does not comprise a distributed buoyancy region. The examiner disagrees. The single buoy forms a distributed buoyancy region of the pipeline since a length of the pipeline floats. Applicant argues that Harrison does not teach a flexure control device. The examiner disagrees. Member 18 allows for vertical movement (see col. 3 line 58). Applicant argues that WO '014 fails to teach a distributed buoyancy region of a pipeline. The examiner disagrees. The pipeline includes member(s) 6 and 25 and member 25 includes buoyancy members. Member(s) 6 and 25 are means for attaching the buoyancy members to pipeline member (1). Applicant argues that buoy 5 of Luppi does not teach a plurality of discrete buoyancy modules. The examiner fails to see why not. Member(s) 24 which are buoyancy members are distributed along a length of pipeline (1,11). Applicant argues that Moses et al. does not teach distributed buoyancy region. The examiner fails to see why not. In applicant's specification (page 3), a distributed buoyancy region is a continuous coating of buoyant material. The examiner fails to see how this differs from the continuous coating of buoyant material (62) taught by Moses et al.

SUNIL SINGH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

Art Unit 3613

Sunil Singh